



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Masahiro TOTSU et al.

Group Art Unit: 2834

Application No.: 10/659,401

Examiner: D. Le

Filed: September 11, 2003

Docket No.: 114184

For: HOLDING MEMBER, COOLANT, COOLING METHOD AND COOLING DEVICE, LINEAR MOTOR DEVICE, STAGE DEVICE, AND EXPOSURE APPARATUS

REPLY TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

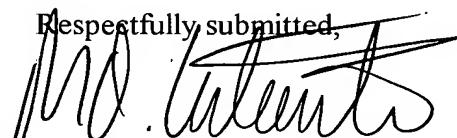
In reply to the March 2, 2004 Restriction Requirement, Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-17 and 24-58. The election is made with traverse.

First, Applicants respectfully submit that the Restriction Requirement's characterization of the claims is not accurate. In particular, the Restriction Requirement asserts that: (A) claims 1-17 and 24-58 are "drawn to the method for cooling an abject [sic] with a coolant"; and (B) claims 18-23 and 59-71 are "drawn to the apparatus of a linear motor with a cooling system." However, Applicants respectfully submit that: (1) claims 24-43, 48-50 and 54-58 are drawn to a method of cooling an object with a coolant; (2) claims 1-17 are directed to a coolant; (3) claims 44-47 and 51-53 are drawn to a cooling device having a holding member and a cooling substance; (4) claims 59-65 are drawn to a cooling device which cools an object with a coolant; (5) claims 18-23 and 66-71 are drawn to a linear motor device having a cooling system (or to an exposure apparatus or a stage having such a linear motor device); and (6) claim 23 is drawn to a device made by the exposure apparatus of claim 22. Applicants submit that at least claims 59-65 should be examined along with the Group I claims.

Second, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all pending claims is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." It is respectfully submitted that this policy should apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicants, and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

In addition, the Examiner is requested to consider the information submitted with the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 11, 2003, December 8, 2003 and December 17, 2003. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below if, for some reason, copies of any of those Information Disclosure Statements are not present in the Patent Office file.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAC/ccs

Date: March 10, 2004

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